



Summer Events, 2003

The City of Petersburg has a fascinating history that dates back to the year 1645 when a fort was established to be used as a trading and military post. Petersburg played a role in many of the events which helped shape the nation including the American Revolution when the British captured the city in April, 1781.

The city fared much better during the industrial revolution. The Appomattox River proved an excellent resource and helped

Petersburg grow into one of the most prosperous cities in the state of Virginia during the 19th century. Tobacco factories, iron works, flour mills, and cotton mills all contributed to a very healthy economy for the "cockade city". Many jobs were available to the citizens of Petersburg, whose population included one of the largest urban, free-black populations in the south.

However no event in the history of the United States has Petersburg played a greater role in than that of

the Civil War. The Civil War forever changed both the physical and social landscape of the city. The events listed throughout this publication pay homage to the citizens and soldiers who suffered through this terrible ordeal while in the city of Petersburg.

Questions regarding these programs can be addressed to Martha Atkinson at the Blandford Reception Center (804) 733-2396, ranger Randy Watkins at Petersburg National Battlefield (804) 732-3531, or Petersburg Old Town Visitor Center 733-2400.

BLANDFORD CHURCH

***Programs by Martha Atkinson
& Ranger Elizabeth Dinger***

(All Blandford Church programs occur at the Blandford Church Reception Center)

Stories in Stone; A Tale of Two Cemeteries

The Graves of Civil War soldiers relate a tragic chapter in our Nation's history. Join us for a look at how the Confederate and Union soldiers who fought and died around Petersburg made it to their final resting place.

Thursday, June 26 at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 24 at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 28 at 7:00 p.m.

Every tombstone is a biography

When war came to Petersburg, the lives of ordinary citizens were transformed by extraordinary events. Join us for a walk through Blandford Cemetery as, using their tombstones, we explore the stories of some of Petersburg's "permanent" residents.

Saturday, June 28 at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 16 at 7:00 p.m.

"Mourning is woman's work"

The rituals observed by Civil War era women were outward expressions of inner grief, governed by strict rules. We'll look at how mourning customs touched everything from clothing to art, including some of the customs still practiced today.

Sunday July 20 at 3:00 p.m.



Battle of Old Men and Young Boys

A 1st Person Living History program which focuses on the fighting from June 9, 1864. More than one hundred local civilians took up arms to defend themselves and their families from an enemy attack. Learn about those who survived and those who perished in what had to be one of the most frightening encounters between civilians and soldiers during the Civil War.

Sunday, June 15 at 11:00, 1:00 & 3:00
Centre Hill Mansion



Centre Hill Mansion

Caring for the Wounded

A number of hospitals existed in and around Petersburg to assist the growing number of casualties. Men and women, blacks and whites all contributed in different ways to caring for the thousands of wounded soldiers from both sides of the Mason-Dixon line. Visitors will see that 19th century medicine and procedures differed quite a bit from what we have today.

Saturday, July 19 at 11:00, 1:00, & 3:00
Old Town (Site To Be Announced)

Factoid:

Centre Hill is the third home of the Bolling family in Petersburg. Built in 1823, remodeled in the 1840s and 1901, the building illustrates the evolution of architectural styles, room usage, decorative arts and Southern culture. Ornate woodwork and plaster motifs accompany period furnishings. In the basement, the 1840s service tunnel connects the work area of the house to the city below.

Confederate Recruiting Station

With Petersburg being the second largest city in Virginia, its population provided the Confederacy with many individuals for service in the army. Learn how these men were recruited, what conscription was, and the status of local militia versus the regulars in General Lee's army. Activities include: physicals, the issuance of equipment, drilling and swearing into service.

Saturday, June 21 at 11:00, 1:00, & 3:00
Old Town: Confederate Recruiting Station.

Walking Tour of Old Town Petersburg

Many of the sites and buildings which played an instrumental role during the 9 1/2 month siege of Petersburg are still in existence today. Take a walk back in time as a guide explains the significance of structures you may be taking for granted.

Saturday, August 2 at 11:00, 1:00 & 3:00

Battle of the Crater

Discover the horror experienced by soldiers who witnessed the events of July 30, 1864. Four tons of black powder explodes under 300 sleeping soldiers. Only someone who was there could truly reflect the brutality that was the Battle of the Crater. Reenactors representing the Union (United States Colored Troops, 48th Pennsylvania) and the Confederacy will explain their roles in the battles.

Saturday, July 12 at 11:00, 1:00 & 3:00

Petersburg National Battlefield Partners with Petersburg's Department of Tourism to Provide Summer Interpretive Programs.

This summer Petersburg National Battlefield is partnering with the City of Petersburg's Department of Tourism to provide the twelve interpretive programs listed on this event calendar. These programs are free to the public.